

Message Text

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ACTION FSI-04

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3037

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 11467

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AFSI, CGEN
SUBJECT: CONSULAR EMPLOYEES PROFESSIONAL SEMINAR

REF: STATE 186760

1. POST WELCOMES ANNOUNCEMENT CONSULAR SEMINAR AND WISHES TO
NOMINATE FSL-4 NARAYANAN RAJAGOPALAN (VISA UNIT) AND FSL-2
FRANK FERNANDES (AMERICAN CITIZENS SERVICES).

2. MR. RAJAGOPALAN (9/13/41 - INDIA) ENTERED ON DUTY 1/19/66
AND HAS ALWAYS WORKED IN CONSULAR SECTION. HE IS PRESENTLY
NUMBER TWO IN VISA UNIT OF EIGHT; DUTIES INCLUDE PREPARING
PERIODIC REPORTS (FS-469 AND FS-258), MANAGEMENT OF QUOTA
CONTROL OPERATIONS, SUPERVISION OF MAIL/FILES/CORRESPONDENCE
SUB-UNIT AND GENERAL "COORDINATIVE ASSISTANCE" TO CHIEF OF
SECTION. HE REQUIRES NO DIRECT SUPERVISION AND USES INDE-
PENDENT JUDGMENT AND INITIATIVE IN PLANNING AND PERFORMING HIS
DUTIES. MR. RAJAGOPALAN HAS ALSO WORKED EXTENSIVELY IN NON-
IMMIGRANT VISAS. HE APPLIED SEVERAL TIMES FOR THE VISA CORRES-
PONDENCE COURSES BUT FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS WAS PREVENTED
FROM FOLLOWING UP HIS APPLICATION. HE IS COMPLETELY FAMILIAR
WITH VISA LAWS, REGULATIONS, AND POLICIES, AND HAS ACCOMPANIED
CONSULAR OFFICERS ON INVESTIGATION FIELD TRIPS AND TO
PERIODIC IN-COUNTRY CONSULAR CONFERENCES. HE HOLDS A B.SC.
IN MATH AND PHYSICS.
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3. MR. FERNANDES (10/26/35 - INDIA) JOINED THE EMBASSY ON 10/21/57.
HE IS CURRENTLY THE SENIOR LOCAL EMPLOYEE IN THE AMERICAN
CITIZENS SERVICES UNIT, PERFORMING AND SUPERVISING ALL WEL-
FARE/PROTECTION FUNCTIONS, PASSPORT SERVICES, AND FEDERAL AGENCY
BENEFITS. SPECIFIC PROBLEMS HANDLED BY MR. FERNANDES
INCLUDE DEATHS, HOSPITALIZATIONS, REPATRIATIONS, DEPORTATIONS,

AND COMPLEX LOCAL VISA CASES REQUIRING INTERCESSION WITH SENIOR INDIAN IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS. MR. FERNANDES HAS TRAVELED EXTENSIVELY WITH CONSULAR OFFICERS TO VISIT DISTRESSED AMERICAN CITIZENS FAR FROM DELHI, AND HAS RECEIVED SEVERAL EMBASSY CASH AWARDS FOR HIS SUSTAINED SUPERIOR PERFORMANCE. HE WORKS BOTH CLOSELY WITH THE CONSULAR OFFICER AND INDEPENDENTLY; HIS INITIATIVE AND ABILITY IN PROBLEM - SOLVING HAVE SAVED MUCH TIME FOR THE OFFICERS IN THE SECTION AND HELPED MATERIALLY TO PROJECT A FAVORABLE IMAGE OF THE SECTION AND CONSULAR OPERATIONS IN GENERAL.

4. BOTH NOMINEES ARE FLUENT IN ENGLISH AND ARTICULATE IN GROUP SITUATIONS. EACH HAS, CONSISTENTLY AND OVER AN EXTENDED TIME, DEMONSTRATED SUPERIOR ABILITY FOR CONSULAR WORK AND OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE IN A VARIETY OF CONSULAR FUNCTIONS. THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE SEMINAR WOULD BENEFIT NOT ONLY THIS EMBASSY BUT, THROUGH CONSULAR TRAVEL AND CONFERENCES, NON-PARTICIPATING INDIA POSTS, AND WOULD THUS ENABLE EMBASSY BETTER TO EXERCISE COUNTRY-WIDE COORDINATION IN CONSULAR MATTERS. EMBASSY STRONGLY URGES THAT BOTH MR. RAJAGOPALAN AND MR. FERNANDES BE INCLUDED IN THE SEMINAR.

5. ROUND TRIP AIR FARE DELHI-WASHINGTON-DELHI IS RUPEES 15306, OR DOLS 1937.47 AT TODAY'S RATE OF EXCHANGE (DOLLAR 1.00 EQUAL TO RS. 7.90). PLUS 12-1/2 PERCENT TAX SINCE INDIA IS AN EXCESS CURRENCY COUNTRY TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED IN RUPEES.

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CHASED IN RUPEES.

6. DEPARTMENT PLEASE NOTE THAT MR. RAJAGOPALAN HAS ALSO BEEN NOMINATED (NEW DELHI 10930) FOR TRAINING IN AVLOS WHICH SCHEDULED FOR INSTALLATION IN NEAR FUTURE. IF MR. RAJAGOPALAN ATTENDS SEMINAR, WE SUGGEST AND RECOMMEND DEPARTMENT ARRANGE TDY AVLOS TRAINING AT APPROPRIATE POST (E.G. LONDON) EN ROUTE BACK TO DELHI, THUS SAVING EXPENSE OF SECOND TRIP LATER ON. GOHEEN

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